

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2006

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Science, State,
Justice, and Commerce,
and Related Agencies
H-309, US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Science, State,
Justice, and Commerce,
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan:

We are writing to ask for your strong support for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and respectfully request that it be fully funded at its authorized amount of \$850 million in Fiscal Year 2007. This program, which reimburses state and local governments for the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens, is vital to border states such as California which incarcerate a disproportionately high share of undocumented criminal aliens.

Securing our nation's borders is the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. With this responsibility comes the added duty of punishing undocumented individuals who endanger our communities through criminal acts. Congress has consistently legislated that the federal government must either take criminal aliens into federal custody or reach an agreement to compensate state and local jurisdictions for their incarceration, most recently as a part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-322).

Eliminating SCAAP would place a significant cost burden on local law enforcement, stretching their resources and hampering their ability to serve our communities and uphold the law. SCAAP is an especially critical program given the increasing importance of local law enforcement personnel to the homeland security mission. The federal government must support their contribution to this mission with appropriate funds.

This is particularly important in California which has the largest population of incarcerated undocumented aliens of any state in the nation. As a result, California State and local governments incur greater costs than other jurisdictions. The State of California alone spends more than \$750 million annually to incarcerate undocumented immigrants convicted of criminal offenses. Unfortunately, over the past several years, the cost to qualifying jurisdictions has exceeded reimbursement by hundreds of millions of dollars.

We therefore urge you to provide \$850 million for SCAAP in Fiscal Year 2007. Thank you for your continued efforts with regard to SCAAP funding. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that reimbursement of these costs remains a federal priority.

Sincerely,

Donald Dreyer

Joe Lofgren

By APD

Samuel Alito

Ken Calvert

Buck McKeon

Mary Bono

Dana Rohrabacher

Tom Lantos

Wally Herger

John T. Doolittle

Bob Dold

Don Jones

Jack Hanna

Devin Nunes

Frank Lautenberg

Ed Royce

Doris O. Matsui

Diana Hunt

Lucille Rygal-Allard

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Bill Thomas

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Elton Gallagher

Nancy Pelosi

Harold F. German

Ray O. Weyman

Ray O. Weyman

Don Carson

Pete Stark

Alma E. Watson

Sam Farr

Ausan Davis

Lois Sanchez

Anda J. Sanchez Lois Capps

Nicole Maffonda Hilda L. Solis

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Bob Fulmer

Lynn Woolsey

Barbara Lee

Brad Sherman

Ellen O'Donnell

Bob Huff

Mike Thompson

Jim Holt

Alayne Waters